



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 20, 2021

DATE: Thursday, July 15, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, County Grants Administrator, Manager's Office
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept Emergency Rental Assistance 2 allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of [\$5,194,310; no county match], retroactive from May 10, 2021 through September 30, 2025; retroactively authorize the County Manager to sign award documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and provide direction to staff regarding expenditure of these funds. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Department of Treasury awarded a second round of Emergency Rental Assistance, ERA2 which was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The funds have been provided directly to States, U.S. Territories, local governments, and Indian tribes. Grantees such as Washoe County will use the funds to provide assistance to eligible households through existing or newly created rental assistance programs as well as assisting qualifying households with energy and utility payments and homelessness prevention.

Washoe County received U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance 2 funds, in the amount of \$5,194,310 and will provide support to the community through emergency rental assistance and housing stability programs.

The Washoe Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards and must approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Commissioners may wish to provide direction to staff regarding expenditure of these funds.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

On February 9, 2021, The Board of County Commissioners accepted the Emergency Rental Assistance allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of [\$6,564,663.20; no county match], from January 21, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

On February 23, 2021, The Board of County Commissioners approved a subgrant of Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the United States Department of the Treasury to the Housing Authority of the City of Reno in an amount not to exceed \$6,380,855 for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program; with a grant period from February 23, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND

ERA2 sets aside \$2.5 billion for eligible grantees with a high need for ERA2 assistance, based on the number of very low-income renter households paying more than 50 percent of income on rent or living in substandard or overcrowded conditions, rental market costs, and change in employment since February 2020.

At least 90 percent of awarded funds must be used for direct financial assistance, including rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing. Remaining funds are available for housing stability services, including case management and other services intended to keep households stably housed.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ERA2)

Scope of the Project: Washoe County will work through community-based partner agencies to provide rental and utility assistance and provide support for direct housing stability services.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Emergency Rental Assistance will enable residents to remain housed, keeping families together, and improving safety and security for the households receiving assistance. The financial assistance will benefit the economy of our region by reducing delinquent rent and utility accounts.

On-Going Program Support: Award will be used to address housing stability, rental and utility needs.

Award Amount: \$5,194,310

Grant Period: May 10, 2021 – September 30, 2025

Funding Source: U.S Department of the Treasury

Pass Through Entity: NA

CFDA Number: 21.023

Grant ID Number:

Match Amount and Type: NA

Sub-Awards and Contracts: It is anticipated that subawards and/or contracts will be needed for this program. The scope of services and amount of such awards have not yet been determined. Procurement of contracts will comply with the Washoe County Purchasing Manual and federal procurement guidelines in 2 CFR Part 200.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this federal assistance allocation, the FY22 Office of the County Manager adopted budget will be increased by \$5,194,310 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO-11843 ERA2	431100-Federal Grants	\$5,194,310
IO-11843 ERA2	710500-Other Expense	\$5,194,310

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept Emergency Rental Assistance 2 allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of [\$5,194,310; no county match], retroactive from May 10, 2021 through September 30, 2025; retroactively authorize the County Manager to sign award documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and provide direction to staff regarding expenditure of these funds.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"move to accept Emergency Rental Assistance 2 allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of [\$5,194,310; no county match], retroactive from May 10, 2021 through September 30, 2025; retroactively authorize the County Manager to sign award documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and provide direction to staff regarding expenditure of these funds."*